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Annual Report  
OF THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
Borough of Tewkesbury  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
Report of the Sanitary Inspector  
For the Year 1925.

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TEWKESBURY :

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Annual Report



OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Tewkesbury

For the Year 1925,

BY

M. ELDER, Medical Officer of Health,

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. W. RIDLER, A.M.I.C.E.)

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SANITARY AUTHORITY.

LEVEN HOUSE,

TEWKESBURY,

1st May, 1926.

*To the Mayor and Members of the Sanitary Committee of the  
Borough of Tewkesbury.*

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GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1925. According to Circular 648, issued by the Ministry of Health in December, 1925, this report should deal with the measure of progress made in the Borough during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health, &c. :

#### **Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (in acres)	-	-	-	2,532
Population (census 1921)	-	-	-	4,667
„ Estimated for 1925	-	-	-	4,777

At the outbreak of war our population was 5,260. From that date it gradually diminished, until in 1920 the estimated population was only 4,597. During the following three years it again increased, until in 1923 it rose to 4,775, at which figure it has remained fairly stationary.

#### **Physical Features and General Character of the Area.**

The Borough lies in the north-eastern corner of the County of Gloucester, adjoining Worcestershire. It is situated on the banks of the Severn, in the midst of flat pasture land, and the lower part of the Borough is very liable to floods during rainy seasons. The town is practically dependent upon the agricultural interests of the surrounding country district, although we have still one or two local industries. Fifty years ago minor industries, such as stocking-making, weaving, &c., flourished here and made the Borough fairly prosperous. No trace of this kind of work can now be found in the neighbourhood.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	-	-	1,241
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	-	-	1,186
Rateable Value	-	-	£21,737 18s.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	£90 11s.

#### **Vital Statistics.**

	Total	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate	- 88	51	37	Birth Rate (R.C.) 19.7
Illegitimate	- 6	6	—	



Our Birth Rate, which is slightly less than that of 1924, again compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, which is 18·3 per 1,000.

	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate (R.C.)
Deaths - -	50	20	30	10·46

Our Death Rate is lower than that of last year. The following table will show how we compare with that of England and Wales:

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
England and Wales -	12·1	12·8	11·6	12·2	12·2
Tewkesbury Borough -	13·26	13·9	10·89	10·89	10·46

During the past three years our Death Rate has been fairly stationary.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth—  
From sepsis, nil; from other causes, nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—  
Legitimate 10·64, Illegitimate nil, Total 10·64. This compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales, viz, 75.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages), nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), nil.

### **The Amount of Poor Law Relief.**

£2,062 13s. 1d. was distributed in outdoor relief in the Borough during the year 1925.

During the same period 85 inhabitants of the Borough were treated as in-patients of the Tewkesbury Rural Hospital.

### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

*Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.*

1. Tuberculosis - Nil.

2. Maternity - Nil.

3. Children - Nil.

4. Fever - Isolation Hospital at Tredington for joint use of Borough and Rural District cases. It has accommodation for 14 cases of Scarlet Fever and 4 cases of Diphtheria, in addition to 4 Single Wards for observation cases or those of Typhoid Fever. The expenses of this Hospital are defrayed by the Urban and Rural District Councils in the proportion of five-twelfths and seven-twelfths respectively.

5. Small-pox - There is a Small-pox Hospital at Elmstone Hardwick belonging to Cheltenham. A small ward of 4

beds is at the disposal of the Tewkesbury Area, provided it is vacant at the time required. In addition there is at Tredington Isolation Hospital a large Canvas Tent fit for the reception of six cases.

6. Other - - - The Rural Hospital contains 24 beds for both Surgical and Medical Cases. It is maintained by voluntary subscriptions, while the patients pay small fees according to their means.

*Any Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the Area.*

None, except the Union Infirmary.

*Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) For Infectious Cases—a Motor Trailer.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases—only a Hand Litter belonging to the local Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

*Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—As stated in my 1924 Report, this Centre was opened on the 7th February, 1924. At the end of 1924 there were 109 children on the register, while at the end of 1925 the number was 149.

The Centre is opened fortnightly at the Town Hall, and is very much appreciated by the mothers, as is evidenced by the average attendance, viz., 32. According to present arrangements Nurse Heathorn attends the Centre at each opening, while the Medical Officer does so monthly. As I stated in my last report, "it would prove still more beneficial if funds permitted the opening to be a weekly one with both Nurse and Doctor in attendance." Free use of two rooms in the Town Hall is given by the Town Council; the County Council gave a grant of £12 12s., St. George's Lodge of Freemasons £2, Tewkesbury Building Society £2 2s., and Town Council £2 2s. A tea is always provided for the mothers, for which a nominal charge of one penny is made.

So far no Ante-natal work has been done at the Centre. This type of work is admittedly very difficult to handle. Our present headquarters are certainly not very suitable. More privacy is required than we can at present offer, and when one remembers the natural reticence of the young mother on such matters, I fear it is hopeless to expect a beginning of such work at our present Centre. My ambition is to see a small ward set aside at the Rural Hospital for Maternity work. There the mother, when she goes to "book," could be subjected to all enquiries and examinations, and saves the inconvenience of attending a separate Clinic.

DAY NURSERIES—None in area.

SCHOOL CLINICS, TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES, TREATMENT CENTRES FOR VENEREAL DISEASES.—This work is partly carried out at the Rural Hospital under the County Medical Officer of Health's Out-Station Scheme. A doctor is in attendance every Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and attends to all such cases. A specialist is engaged to operate on all cases of Tonsils, Adenoids, &c., as well as to attend to Eye Cases, Refraction Work, &c. Should a consultation be desired in a Tubercular case, Dr. Dickson, the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer, is always ready and willing to give his valuable advice and help.

### **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

<i>Medical Officer of Health :</i>	<i>Qualification :</i>
MATTHEW ELDER -	M.B., C.M., Edin.

<i>Sanitary Inspector :</i>	
WALTER RIDLER -	Cert. R. San. Inst.

*Others :* Nil.

### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

(a) General. (b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, &c.

This work is carried out by the District Nurse. She is certificated both for Medical and Surgical work. She is engaged by the Tewkesbury Nursing Institute, an Association founded in 1887 to provide a Nurse for the poor of the Borough. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions—in fact was entirely so until it affiliated with the County Nursing Association a few years ago. The County Nursing Association gives an annual grant of £40 on condition that the Nurse undertakes Health Visiting, School Nursing, and Tuberculosis, in addition to her ordinary work. The services of the Nurse are very much appreciated, as is evidenced by the fact that she pays about 4,000 visits per annum.

#### *Midwives.*

The Tewkesbury Nursing Institute also employs a Certified Midwife to attend to cases of confinement in the Borough, for which a fee varying from 15/- to 30/- per case is charged, according to the circumstances of the patient. The County Council also makes a grant in aid of this work in proportion to the number of cases attended annually. The General District Nurse is also a Certified Midwife, who officiates when occasion requires. In addition to the above mentioned, there are two more registered Midwives practising in the Borough.

### **Legislation in Force.**

There are no Local Acts, Special Local Orders, or General Adoptive Acts in force in the Borough.



*Bye-laws.*

1. For the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises in the said Borough so as to be injurious to health—23rd June, 1885.
2. Regulation of Slaughter-Houses—5th March, 1852.
3. Common Lodging Houses—21st February, 1852.
4. Street Cleaning—1852.
5. New Streets and Buildings—24th July, 1914.
6. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—15th October, 1900.

From the above you will observe that although the Bye-laws relating to New Streets and Buildings, and also to Dairies, Cowsheds, &c., are quite up-to-date ; those relating to Slaughter-Houses, &c., are quite antiquated. I am very glad that, acting on my suggestion, the Council are revising the older bye-laws and bringing them up-to-date.

**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.***Water Supply.*

The Borough receives its Water Supply from the Cheltenham Corporation, either from the River Severn or from the Dowdeswell Reservoir, which collects its water from the slopes of the Cotswold Hills. The supply is constant and abundant. Practically the whole town receives its Water Supply from these sources, although there are still a few houses on the outskirts of the Borough that are dependent on wells.

*Rivers and Streams.*

There has been no pollution from the rivers and streams in the vicinity of the Borough during the past year.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*

The water carriage system of drainage is employed throughout the town, and no cesspools, with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the Borough, are in existence. During the past two or three years, defective portions of the sewers have been relaid, and at the present time the whole area, with the exception of possibly one portion, is very well supplied.

*Closet Accommodation.*

Practically the whole of the houses (with the exception of a few in the outlying parts) of the Borough are supplied with Water Closet accommodation.

The few on the outskirts are supplied with privies, &c. Where closets are used in common by adjoining cottages in the alleys and courts, the Council have usually aimed at a minimum of one closet to two cottages.



### *Scavenging.*

The Town refuse is removed twice weekly by the Corporation employees, tipped on Wyatt's Meadow, and covered with nine inches of soil. This has been our proceeding during the last year and has proved very satisfactory. In a very short time Wyatt's Meadow will have been utilised to the full, and a great problem for the Committee to solve will be the acquisition of another dumping ground. Two years ago the question of a Destructor was raised, but this was turned down by the Ministry after a public examination owing to the site being unsuitable.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

From the following classified tables, &c., you will observe that a very considerable amount of work has been done under this heading during the past year :—

#### *1,—Water Supply.*

(a) Is there deficiency in any part, and, if so, what part or parts?	-	-	-	-	-	No
(b) Has there been any change in the existing sources of supply?	-	-	-	-	-	No
(c) Has any application for a Loan been made?	-	-	-	-	-	No
1. Amount	-	-	-	-	-	
2. Purpose	-	-	-	-	-	
(d) Number of new connections with public supply	-	-	-	-	-	16
(e) Number of wells sunk, or improved sources of supply provided	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
(f) Number of wells closed	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
(g) Number of samples taken for examination	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

#### *2.—Sewerage and Drainage.*

(a) In what parishes, if any, is there need for—						
1. A sewerage system?	-	-	-	-	-	—
2. Improvements in existing sewerage?	-	-	-	-	-	—
3. Improvements in sewage disposal?	-	-	-	-	-	—
(b) Has any application for a Loan been made?	-	-	-	-	-	No
(c) Number of houses in each parish newly connected with sewers?	-	-	-	-	-	13
(d) Number of W.C's newly supplied with flushing cisterns?	-	-	-	-	-	9
(e) Number of earth closets, pail closets, or improved privies constructed?	-	-	-	-	-	- None
(f) Number of notices served to empty "privy vaults?"	-	-	-	-	-	- None
(g) Number of privy vaults abolished?	-	-	-	-	-	- None

#### *3.—Refuse Disposal.*

- (a) In what parishes have arrangements been made for the removal or disposal of house refuse?—The whole.
- (b) What changes in the collection or disposal were made during 1925?—None.

4.—*Numbers Inspected of each of the following:*

	No. on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging Houses	1	1	2
(b) Slaughter Houses	6	6	22
(c) Bakehouses	9	9	12
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	16	16	28
(e) Canal Boats	—	8	8
(f) Workshops	52	15	15
(g) Residences of Out-workers	21	6	6

5.—*General.*

(a) Number of complaints received	-	-	10
(b) No. of Nuisances reported to District Council :			
1. Total	-	-	25
2. Swine	-	-	1
(c) Total number of Nuisances abated	-	-	50
(d) Total number of preliminary Notices served	-	-	28
(e) Total number of Statutory Notices served	-	-	25
(f) Total number of Summonses taken out	-	-	—
(g) Total number of Convictions	-	-	—
(h) Number of Houses disinfected	-	-	7
(i) Methods of disinfection used	-	-	Formalin

*Smoke Abatement.*

No complaints under this heading have been received during the past year.

*Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by  
Bye-laws or Regulations.*

The foregoing tables show clearly the amount of work done under this heading.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough.

*Schools.*

The examination of scholars, &c., is done by the County Medical Officer and his assistants. The Water Supply to all the Schools is from the Town Mains.

**Housing.**

*(1.)—General Housing Conditions in the Area.*

1.—The great majority of the houses are very old, as comparatively little building has been done during the last fifty years. The larger houses are generally of substantial construction, with a fair amount of free air space around them, and they are usually found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

The bulk of the working-class houses are situated in courts and narrow alleys, and consist of a living room with one or two bedrooms over. The free air space is very limited, and in many cases the houses are lacking in through ventilation. The sanitary conveniences are generally used in common by two houses, and in a few cases three. Another deficiency which is frequently noted is the absence of wash-houses or furnaces for washing clothes. Further, owing to the lack of yards and open spaces adjoining the houses, house refuse has frequently to be stored in a cupboard in the living room until removed by the scavengers on one of their bi-weekly visits. Food has often to be kept in an unventilated cupboard in the living room. The weekly rent charged for such cottages is usually two to three shillings per week inclusive of rates.

2.—(A) Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses. There are practically no empty working-class houses in the Borough, and there is a good demand for new and better houses by young people desirous of marrying.

(B) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—During the past eleven years the Council have erected thirty-six houses, and they are about to erect an additional twelve. The rents and rates charged for these houses are too high, and unless the Council can in some way reduce them, or build cheaper ones, I can see no possibility of diminishing the number of the inhabitants of our alleys, who as I have before mentioned pay a weekly rent averaging two shillings and sixpence per week inclusive of rates, and inform me that they cannot possibly pay much more.

3.—Information as to any Important Changes in Population during the period under review or anticipated in the future. As I have previously stated in this report, our population has remained practically stationary during the last few years, and I do not anticipate any change in the near future.

### *(II.)—Overcrowding.*

1.—Extent. There is not much overcrowding from a sanitary point of view. The rooms in many of the houses situated in courts and alleys are fairly large, some containing 1,000 cubic feet and more. The result is that large families consisting of adults of both sexes occasionally occupy such houses with two bedrooms, with disastrous results viewed from a moral standpoint.

2.—Causes. This has been answered in the preceding paragraphs.

3.—Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding, and

4.—Principal Cases of Overcrowding during the year 1925 and Action taken.



There were two cases of overcrowding reported during 1925. In one case a family consisting of a man, his wife, a girl 13 years of age, a boy of 11 years, and two younger children occupied a house in a court consisting of a living room and one bedroom with a capacity of 956 cubic feet. A notice to abate the nuisance was served on the occupier, who at the time was unemployed, but he was unable to obtain a larger house for many months. In the meantime the landlord of the cottage, who owned another small cottage adjoining, and which at the time was void, was asked by the Council to make the two houses into one for the benefit of his tenant, but he refused to do so. After some months the tenant was able to procure another cottage with two bedrooms, and so the overcrowding was abated.

In the second case, a family of seven adults and five children under twelve years of age occupied a house consisting of a living room and two bedrooms. The bedrooms were of a capacity of 990 and 1330 cubic feet respectively. Only one son aged 22 years was in work. A notice to abate the overcrowding was served on the occupier, and this was complied with by two of the unmarried daughters with their infants being removed to a "Home" and one of the sons being sentenced to imprisonment for incest.

### *(III.)—Fitness of Houses.*

1.—(a) General standard of Housing in the Borough. This question has already been answered under I. (1).

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.

- (1) Lack of free air space round the houses.
- (2) Dampness of walls and ground floor.
- (3) Lack of yards, W.C. accommodation, and washing facilities.
- (4) Dilapidation of walls and roofs, especially in the very old small houses, some of which were erected quite one hundred years ago.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision of owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.

The owners of the worst cottage property spend little or no money on repairs until notices have been served on them by the Council under the Public Health or Housing Acts. They usually defend themselves by referring to the inadequately small rents charged and the high cost of repairs. The tenants in many cases are dirty in their habits, void of thrift, and take no pride in making the best of their surroundings by keeping their cottages clean, &c.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under

- (a) The Public Health Acts.
- (b) The Housing Acts.

In the case of defects being discovered and reported to the Sanitary Committee, notices are served on the owner under the Housing Acts. In most cases the owners endeavour to comply with the demands. In the event of non-compliance the work is carried out by the Council and the cost charged to the owner.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, &c.

The only great difficulty met with is that of acquiring land to provide free air space round the houses. As the alleys practically run parallel to one another, the only practical method of solving the problem, in my opinion, is to rase every alternate alley to the ground. Here again the question arises as to what housing accommodation you can offer to the tenants of those alley houses earmarked for demolition. At the present time no alternative accommodation can be offered, and until the cost of building and building materials is considerably reduced so as to permit of the building of cheap houses, the problem appears to me insoluble. As I have stated elsewhere in this report the inhabitants of the alleys pay on an average a rental of about two shillings and sixpence per week, rates compounded, and appear to be unable to pay a much higher rent. May I here remark that although the building of new houses will to a certain degree ameliorate our slum conditions, they will, in my opinion, fail miserably to eradicate them. People who are born and reared in slums seem to be quite contented with their surroundings, and have no great desire to be removed therefrom, and until a spirit of dissatisfaction and discontent with their surroundings is sewn among them, present day conditions will continue to exist. I could quote cases known to myself where slum dwellers have been removed to new and model houses and in less than ten years their New Jerusalem has reverted to the slum type. In addition to the sanitary staff, the clergy and social workers could do a great work in improving the morale, &c, of these people—not by preaching from the pulpit, but by house-to-house visitation, and I strongly appeal to them to make great and renewed efforts to assist in removing this great blot on English civilisation.

(4) Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.

Nearly all the houses in the Borough are connected with the Town main.

With regard to closet accommodation, where this is used in common by the occupiers of more than one house, the Council aim at a standard of not more than two houses to one water closet.

House refuse is collected from all property by the town scavengers twice weekly.

*(IV.)—Unhealthy Areas.*

Nothing done under this heading.

(V.)—*Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.*

There are no such recent Bye-laws in existence in the Borough, but as before-mentioned this matter is at present receiving the attention of the Sanitary Committee.

**Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.**

Number of new houses erected during the year :

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under b) - | 13 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :       |    |
| 1. By the Local Authority -                              | 12 |
| 2. By other bodies or persons -                          | 1  |

*1 — Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| Inspection—1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) -   | 28 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910) -                                 | 15 |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation -                                 | 1  |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation - | 14 |

*2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers - | 2 |
|---|---|

*3.—Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919 :

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -  | 14 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :  |    |
| (a) By Owners -   | 12 |
| (including those outstanding from last year)  |    |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners -   | —  |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close - | 0  |



## (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defect to be remedied - 0
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :
  - (a) By Owners - - - - 0
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners - 0

## (c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1925:

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders - - - - 0
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made - - - - 0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit - - - - 0
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made - - - - 0
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders - - - - 0

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.***(a)—Milk Supply.*

Practically all the milk consumed by the inhabitants of the Borough is produced outside the area. There is a plentiful supply of a good and clean milk to meet all the requirements of the Borough. There are 16 Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops on the Register. All are inspected regularly and have been found in a fairly good sanitary condition. No action has been necessary as to tuberculous milk or cattle during the year under review.

No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers during the year.

*(b)—Meat.*

i. The inspection of Meat is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. All the butchers of the Borough have notified him of their regular days and hours for slaughter, so that he can visit the slaughter houses at his discretion on any of the appointed days. No arrangements have been made for the marking of meat.

ii. Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards Stalls, Shops, Stores, and Vehicles.—Just before this Act came into force (1st April, 1925) all the slaughter houses, shops, &c., were carefully inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The occupiers were made cognizant of the terms of the Order, the defects of their premises pointed out to them, and assistance given as to the best means of altering their premises so as to comply with the Order. In every case we were courteously received and our instructions carried out, so that the premises are in as good a sanitary condition as one can expect, considering the age of the structures.

iii. The Management of the Public Slaughter Houses.—None exist in the Borough.

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	-	5	5	5
Licensed	-	1	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	-	6	6	6

(c)—*Other Foods.*

No cases of unsound food have come under my notice during the year under review.

The Bakehouses in the Borough are all in a good sanitary condition.

(d) There has been no report of any case of food poisoning in the urban district during the past year.

**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.**

(1)—*Prevalence during the period since 1920.*

This can best be shown by the following tables:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Smallpox -	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria -	38	8	5	2	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever -	11	1	16	1	9	6
Enteric Fever -	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever -	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia -	2	10	10	8	4	8
Erysipelas -	5	Nil	1	Nil	4	4
Pulmonary & other forms of Tuberculosis -	5	4	8	2	7	1

From the above table you will note that we have had no case of Smallpox in the Borough during the above-mentioned period. During the epidemic in Gloucester every precaution was taken to prevent the introduction of it into our midst. A printed circular, with precautions to be adopted, &c., was issued by the Council. Chickenpox was made notifiable, and extra facilities offered for vaccination and re-vaccination.

The one great blot in the table is the number of cases of Diphtheria notified during 1920, viz., 38. The cases were isolated and spread over the whole year, as the following table will show :

			No. of Cases Notified.
January	-	-	2
February	-	-	1
March	-	-	3
April	-	-	6
May -	-	-	0
June -	-	-	6
July -	-	-	1
August	-	-	4
September	-	-	0
October	-	-	2
November	-	-	1
December	-	-	12

Extensive enquiries were made both by the Sanitary Inspector and myself as to the source of the infection. The cases were not confined to any one school or milk supply. Searching examination was made for possible carriers without result, and in only two or three cases were minor sanitary defects found at the homes of the patients. Of the 38 cases three proved fatal, but I do not hesitate to state that in my opinion two, if not all three, cases would have been saved had medical assistance been procured earlier in the attack. In all cases removed to Isolation Hospital, diphtheria anti-toxin is promptly used, and with invariably good results.

We have had no serious outbreak of Scarlet Fever during the period under review. The Dick test has not been used, but during the past year scarlet fever serum has been used in three cases with benefit to the patients. It certainly had a most marvellous result in one very severe case. It apparently shortens the duration of the disease and lessens the tendency to complications.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica have been notified during the above-mentioned period.

#### *Bacteriological Examinations.*

The County Council have made arrangements for the Bacteriological examination of specimens from cases at the Pathological



Laboratory of the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary, as well as at the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Bristol. These arrangements apply to the following examinations, viz.:

1. Swabs for Diphtheria.
2. Sputums for Tuberculosis.
3. Bloods for serum reaction for Typhoid Fever.
4. Bloods for Wasserman test.
5. Discharges for microscopical examination for Spirochætes and Gonococci.
6. Urine for examination for Gonococci.
7. Cerebro-spinal fluid for Meningococci.
8. Fœtal tissues for Spirochætes.
9. Urine and Fæces for Typhoid Bacilli.

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No primary Vaccination or re-vaccination have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

#### *Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.*

During the first quarter of the years 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925 we had quite a widespread epidemic of Influenza in the Borough. The type has been much milder than that of the 1918 epidemic. The 1924 type seemed to vary slightly from the others in that the febrile stage lasted three days instead of two. In 1922 we had three deaths from this cause, giving a mortality of  $\cdot 63$  per 1,000. In 1923, none; in 1924, one, giving a mortality of  $\cdot 2$  per 1,000; and in 1925, one, giving a similar death rate.

Towards the end of August, 1923, an epidemic of Measles broke out amongst the children and remained in our midst until the end of the year. It resulted in the death of four children. As I stated in my report for that year, "This disease is still treated too lightly by a great many parents, and it is very difficult to get them to realise the dangers of the sequelæ, viz., bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, &c., which are the causes of the high mortality in measles. Again in June, 1925, measles made their reappearance in the Borough, fortunately on this occasion with no fatal results.

In the month of June, 1924, a few cases of Mumps made their appearance, but no widespread epidemic was noted until the latter half of July, which necessitated the closing of one of the Schools. Fresh cases kept cropping up almost until the end of the year. It was very difficult to get parents to realise the necessity of isolating their children and keeping them indoors during the infectious period, with the result that the usual complications of orchitis, acute paracreatitis, &c., were fairly frequent in their appearance.

During September and October, 1925, a fair number of cases of Whooping Cough came under my notice.

In regard to Verminous persons, the only arrangements at present are for the affected person to go to the Union Infirmary for the necessary baths, while the clothes, bedding, &c., are removed to the Isolation Hospital and passed through the steam disinfecter. Since the institution of the Public Baths a few years ago, the number of such cases have appreciably diminished. The Baths are becoming more and more popular every year, and no doubt partly account for the improved health of the Borough.

### III.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	-	-	-	8	1	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	6	6	0
Erysipelas	-	-	-	4	4	0

### Analysis of the Total Cases.

Age Groups.	Pneu- monia	Scarlet Fever	Ery- sipelas	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...
1— 2 years	1	1	...	...	..
2— 3 years	...	...	...	...	...
3— 4 years	1	...	...	...	..
4— 5 years	1	1	...	...	...
5— 6 years	...	...	...	...	...
6—10 years	...	2	...	...	...
10—15 years	1	1	...	...	...
15—20 years	..	...	...	..	...
20—35 years	1	1	...	...	...
35—45 years	1	...	2	...	...
45—65 years	...	...	1	...	...
65 and over	2	...	1	...	...
Totals	8	6	4		

**Tuberculosis.**

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
5—9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—34	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
35—44	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...

1. Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

2. Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been necessary under the above Acts.

**Tuberculosis Schemes.**

There are no Tuberculosis Dispensaries in the area. As before stated, any Tubercular children can be attended at the Out-station, viz., Rural Hospital once a week, but there is at present no Hospital or Sanatorium accommodation for them in the Borough. When Sanatorium treatment is required, the cases are submitted to Dr. Arrott Dickson, the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer for examination and decision as to future treatment.

**Venereal Diseases.**

No arrangements have been made for the treatment of these cases locally. This work is done by two physicians at the Cheltenham General Hospital.

**Maternity and Child Welfare.**

The arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age have



been fully set out in a previous part of the report, under the heading of Child Welfare Centre. There are no Maternity Homes or Hospitals for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers in the Borough. This question was raised by me at the Rural Hospital a few years ago, but I received no support from the Hospital Committee or other members of the staff.

During the past five years we have had only two deaths in consequence of child birth, viz., in 1921.

	Years	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
No. of deaths	-	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Ophthalmic Neonatorum.

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
Nil	...	...				

During the last few years cases of Ophthalmic Neonatorum have been of very rare occurrence.

In 1921	-	None
In 1922	-	One
In 1923	-	None
In 1924	-	One
In 1925	-	None

In the two cases above mentioned the infants fully recovered with no impairment of vision.

You will find the Tables of Statistics, together with the Sanitary Inspector's Report, appended.

I cannot conclude this Report without a reference to the valuable help which has been given to me during the year by my brother officials and the courtesy which has always been shown me by the members of the Committee.

I am,

Yours obediently,

MATTHEW ELDER,

*M.O.H.*

**Table III.—Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1925, Classified by Age and Cause,  
for the Tewkesbury Urban District.**

**Nett Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.**

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Total deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Institut'ns in District.
All Causes Certified	50	1	2	3	...	1	6	9	28	25
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4	..	...	...	..	...	...	1	3	
Diabetes	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	
Heart Disease	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	4	
Arterio Sclerosis	3	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	3	
Bronchitis	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Par- turation	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	
Other Deaths from Violence	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	
Other defined Diseases	9	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	5	
Totals	50	1	2	3	...	1	6	9	28	

**Table IV.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1925 in the Tewkesbury Urban District.  
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.**

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes Certified or Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Nett Births registered during the Calendar Year	{ Legitimate Illegitimate	- 88	} Nett Deaths registered during the Calendar Year	Legitimate Illegitimate	- 1 - 0
		Total - 94		Total - 1	



# Borough of Tewkesbury.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ended 31st December, 1925.

### TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

#### *Drainage, Etc.*

Houses inspected, the drains of which proved to be defective	-	12
Number of houses with defective waterclosets	-	7
Number of waterclosets newly supplied with flushing cisterns	-	9
Number of houses with insufficient water closets	-	17

#### *Other Nuisances and Sanitary Matters dealt with.*

Nuisances caused by animals	-	-	-	2
Houses without a proper supply of water	-	-	-	2
Overcrowding	-	-	-	7
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	-	-	-	7

#### *General.*

Complaints received	-	-	-	-	10
Number of Nuisances reported to Council	-	-	-	-	25
"    "    abated	-	-	-	-	50
"    Preliminary notices served	-	-	-	-	28
"    Statutory notices served	-	-	-	-	25
Re-inspections	-	-	-	-	48

#### *Registered Premises.*

Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	2
"    Slaughterhouses	-	-	-	22
"    Bakehouses	-	-	-	12
"    Daires, Cowsheds and Milkshops	-	-	-	28
"    Workshops	-	-	-	7
"    Residences of Out-workers	-	-	-	6
"    Canal Boats	-	-	-	8

*Housing.*

Number of houses inspected under the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts and Housing Regulations	-	-	28
Number of houses with defects for which notices have been served -	-	-	14
Closing Orders made	-	-	1
Re-inspections	-	-	38

Signed,

WALTER RIDLER,

*Borough Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.*







